

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

As a customer of DIRECTV, I am writing to urge you NOT to support the pending merger of EchoStar and HUGHES, the parent company of DIRECTV. I believe the merger will decrease video and broadband choices for consumers like me, inevitably mergers cost jobs and give the resulting company a monopoly, creating LESS choices for the consumer rather than more. As a currently DISATISFIED customer of DirectTV I fail to see how having one LESS company to chose from will give greater choice.

The combined company will be a much more arrogant corporation who will not care about the concerns or single consumers and will only cater to their own pocket and needs. In Broward County, Florida where AT&T Cable absorbed EVERY individual cable operator the services DIMINISHED and customers wher often left on hold for hours unable to resolve their issues.

I currently have DSL access to the Internet, the combination of EchoStar and HUGHES will NOT result in increased competition in the broadband market it will end competition of smaller companies and drive them out of business. High-Speed internet access via satellite is a fallacy, a technology based on smoke and mirrors, often small amounts of clouds and bad weather disrupt satellite service and companies are little if at all concerned with customer issues. Case in point, DirectTV's dsl internet services is so arrogant that the do not even post system trouble on their website.

I urge the FCC to do something in the INTEREST of the consumer by DISALLOWING the further mergers of these giant communication/media companies since fewer conrporations allow for fewer points of view and LESS diversity in the community.

In the Ft. Lauderdale/Miami market there are few broadcsting stations left that belong to independent operators. Current radio and television operators in this area bring few stories of local interest that affect the community other than shootings, carjackings, hold-ups and the general bloodletting brought to us courtesy of Fox News and its competing sensationalist broadcasters, the local water quality, or city projects that are build thanks to special interests rather than to benefit the community at large be damned.

Local broadcasters that belong to large chains will often broadcast programming even at a loss in revenue if it serves the purposes of promoting their own agenda. Case in point WIOD 610 which used to bring local, national and international news and had at least SOME diverse opinions across the political spectrum now concentrates SOLELY on a radical right wing point of view and promotes ONLY this kind of programming. How is this diverse? How does this benefit the community? How is THIS freedom of speech?

Let's not forget that both Nazi Germany and Communist Russia had more than one point of view, whether this is state sponsored or privately (corporate) owned makes little difference, the media is ultimately there to inform the public and not to twist the information to serve their own needs. If Worldcomm had owned radio and tv we would have NEVER heard of their misdeeds.

I appreciate your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

Milton Harispe
2249 SW 34th Way
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33312